



Morristown Muster

November 2016 Newsletter

Greetings!

Thank you for subscribing to Morristown National Historical Park's e-newsletter. We are pleased to keep you connected to your national park.

Holly Walk Returns to Morristown!

*Saturday, December 3 & Sunday, December 4
11:00 am to 4:00 pm*

A long-standing and beloved tradition in Morris County is the historic house tour known as "Holly Walk". With one admission ticket visitors can tour five local sites which will be decorated for the holidays. New this year, the event has been expanded from one to two days, and will be held Saturday and Sunday, December 3 and 4 from 11 am to 4 pm.



Participating sites for Holly Walk include: Acorn Hall, the Ford Mansion, Macculloch Hall, the Schuyler-Hamilton House and the Stickley Museum at Craftsman Farms.

Each location has been planned special Holly Walk programming just for this weekend.

Additionally, their gift shops will be stocked with unique items for holiday shoppers.

Advanced sale tickets cost \$30 and are available at morristourism.org and at the Morris County Tourism Bureau office, 6 Court Street, Morristown, until Friday, December 2nd. During the weekend of the event the ticket price will rise to \$35. Children 12 and under are free.

For more information, please visit the Morris County Tourism Bureau [website](#).

Reminder: The Washington's Headquarters Museum, Ford Mansion, and Jockey Hollow Visitor Center are CLOSED on December 25, 2016 & January 1, 2017

We want to remind our park patrons that the park's main visitor services at the Washington's Headquarters Museum, the Ford Mansion, and the Jockey Hollow Visitor Center are closed on December 25, 2016 (Christmas Day) and January 1, 2017 (New Year's Day).

The restrooms located at the Jockey Hollow Visitor Center and the New York Brigade will be OPEN. Patrons are still welcome to walk, hike, or bike the grounds where allowed and all roads will be open.

Have a great and safe holiday season!



Change to Winter Hours of Operation

Beginning on January 1, 2017, the Jockey Hollow Visitor Center building will be closed. The building will reopen on Saturday, February 11, 2017.*

During that same period, the Washington's Headquarters Museum & the Ford Mansion will only be open on Saturdays and Sundays.

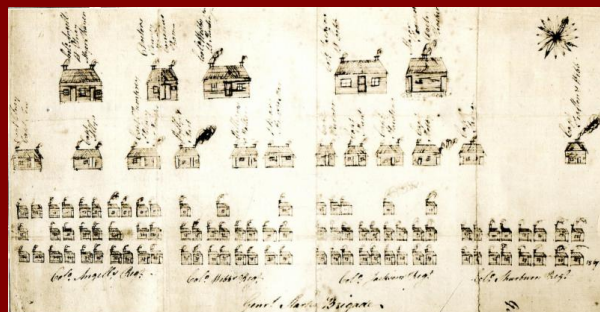
Please note that the grounds of the entire park will remain open 7 days per week along with the restroom facilities at the Jockey Hollow area, per park hours listed at www.nps.gov/morr.

**These closures will NOT affect scheduled education/school programs.*

A Log Hut City Emerges

By: Eric Olsen, Park Ranger/Historian

In December 1779, Jockey Hollow was filled with the sound of axes, saws, hammers and shovels. What had once been farms and forests was being converted into one of the biggest cities in the United States, as the Continental Army made their winter camp on land that belonged to Henry Wick and his neighbors.



Throughout the month of December, over 10,000 soldiers marched into Jockey Hollow to begin what would be a 6 month encampment. With snow already on the ground, the men at first slept out on the snow exposed to the elements but soon they were covered

inside six foot square canvas tents. However, a tent would be poor shelter during what turned out to be the worst winter in the recorded history of the United States. As a result, the men would spend all their waking hours building log cabins.

In order to maintain camp discipline, General Washington issued strict orders regarding the construction of the huts. Each soldier's hut had to be 14 feet wide, 16 feet long and built in a straight line with the other huts. Huts that did not conform would be torn down, a fate that befell one hut in the New Jersey Brigade. While archaeologists found traces of another hut in the Jersey Brigade had been built around a large rock because its occupants did not want to build the hut outside of its prescribed spot.

In an effort to boost the morale of the beleaguered soldiers Washington also ordered that the enlisted men huts were to be built first. Officers would have to wait for the enlisted men to be housed before work could start on their huts.

The huts were built on hillsides to provide good drainage and keep the huts dry. Logs of primarily oak and walnut were used to construct the hut walls and were split to make shingles for the roofs. Rocks were used to make the hearth and sides of the fireplaces while the wooden chimneys' were lined with clay to protect them from fire. Chinking made of small stones, clay, mud and straw was pressed between the logs to keep out the cold drafts. At times it was so cold that the mud froze before it could be pressed between the logs.

Most of the soldiers built their huts in less than two weeks. By Christmas, the enlisted men were all in their huts, though some officers would wait until mid-February to move into their huts. On December 24, 1779, Artillery officer Lieutenant Samuel Shaw wrote: *"The army have, in the usual manner, after the fatigues of the campaign, completed their huts, and are now in comfortable quarters. Hutting was a monstrous undertaking at Valley Forge, in 1777, but now become an easy employment, and, should the war continue a few years, it will be a mere matter of amusement; so much do necessity and custom reconcile mankind to what once appeared almost insurmountable difficulties."*

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Feel free to contact us with any questions regarding the park or our ranger programs. We can be reached at 973-539-2016 ext.210. Come out and Find Your Park!

Sincerely,

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